# Jefferson Manor Citizens Association NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

March–April 2010

JMCA, P.O. Box 4104, Alexandria, VA 22303 • www.JeffersonManor.org

#### NEXT GENERAL MEETING



**Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.** Janet's Java Special Guest: Lindsay A. Mason, Fairfax County Department of Planning & Zoning

JMCA EVENTS **Tuesday, April 20: General Board Meeting** Open to the Public *Location details will be posted on the JMCA website* 

May 1: Newsletter ads & articles due

#### JMCA ON THE WEB

Web site: http://www.jeffersonmanor.org Listserv: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ jeffersonmanor

**Parents group:** http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jeffersonmanorparents

**Facebook:** Join the Jefferson Manor Citizen's Association group today!

## **President's Letter**

"Hi, I'm Chris, JMCA president. Nice to meet you."

Over the past three years, I have had the chance to get to know so many of you with this greeting. Out on my walks with my dog Jack, I have had the unique opportunity to discuss with you your cares and concerns of our community. It has been a rewarding and enriching experience that far outpaced the expectations I had coming into the job.

Looking back on my time on the JMCA Board, there has been much that we have accomplished. Immediately after taking office, I was able to work with our state delegate David Englin to convince VDOT to replace the worst of our cracked and ailing sidewalks. David and I were also able to hold VDOT to its promise to resurface the older, unimproved roads. Despite VDOT's current funding problems, this project was completed in the summer of 2009. While I am disappointed we have not been able to locate the \$17 million necessary for the full renovation, I am thrilled that this improvement to our quality of life was completed.

We are well on our way to having traffic calming measures installed on our busiest streets thanks to the JMCA petition efforts. Our decade-long goal of improving pedestrian conditions on North Kings Highway has been

funded and will be complete in 2011. Our busiest street, Fort Drive, was finally renovated after years of planning and construction.

Our social events have grown in leaps and bounds over the past three years as well. In the summer of 2007, we successfully celebrated our 60th anniversary. Over 100 of your friends and neighbors came to the park to enjoy an afternoon with a police color guard, live music, and a host of other activities. I was honored to be able to represent Jefferson Manor in front of the county Board of Supervisors as September 8, 2007 was declared Jefferson Manor Day in Fairfax County. Our annual picnics continue to see a rise in attendance every year. Not only was our National Night Out event attended by over 125 people this year, but we also were given the award for best event by the Mount Vernon police district.

The accomplishment I am most proud of is the Huntington Gardens apartments. In 2007, this property was slated to be torn down and rebuilt as townhouses. The owners walked away from the property, leaving it abandoned and unsecured. The site became a magnet for those with ill intensions and ended up a nest of police activity. With the help of Supervisor McKay's office, the JMCA was able to get the site secured by Commerce bank, and help Ivy Development begin the arduous job of renovating the property. What was once a site for gang violence and homeless squatters is now a fully integrated community within our neighborhood.

Special thanks go to all of the members of the JMCA board who I have had the chance to serve with. A tip of the cap to Richard Ewell for his work on the Fort Drive project, Jim Martin for almost single-handedly keeping the social committee afloat, and to my saint of a wife, Marissa. She has had to listen to me talk about the banalities of county budgeting and VDOT's lack of funds, and put up with Jim on the social committee.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to represent our community. It has been a joy to learn of your cares and concerns, your dreams of the future of Jefferson Manor.

Chris Soule, President Jefferson Manor Citizens Association president@jeffersonmanor.org

### About JMCA

JMCA is a volunteer citizens' group devoted to the betterment of the Jefferson Manor neighborhood. Membership is \$20 annually, paid at the membership meetings or to JMCA, P.O. Box 4104, Alexandria, VA 22303. JMCA membership is annual, from January to December. For more information, visit: *www. JeffersonManor.org* or email us at: *info@JeffersonManor.org*.

### **JMCA Board Members**

(4/2009-3/2010)

Chris Soule, President President@JeffersonManor.org

Claire McDonough, Vice President VP@JeffersonManor.org

Richard Ewell, Treasurer Treasurer@JeffersonManor.org

Jim Martin, Secretary Secretary@JeffersonManor.org

Brian Allen, Director

Richard Cassara, Director

Steve Eide, Director

Maeve Ulrich, Director

Kathleen Atkinson, Neighborhood Watch Advisor to the Board

### **JMCA Activities**

Neighborhood Watch watch@JeffersonManor.org

Home Improvement Committee homeimprovement@ JeffersonManor.org

Land Use Committee landuse@JeffersonManor.org

Parents' Group parents@JeffersonManor.org

Social Committee social@JeffersonManor.org

Transportation Committee transportation@JeffersonManor.org

Web Site Committee website@JeffersonManor.org

#### Neighborhood News Newsletter

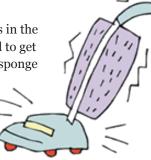
Please direct any requests or questions about Neighborhood News to: newsletter@JeffersonManor.org

Kristina Mann, Editor-in-chief Kelly Marshall, distribution

# **Spring Cleaning the Green Way**

As the winter breaks and the weather starts to warm up, spring cleaning is right around the corner. Here are some tips for giving your home a spring cleaning while avoiding dangerous chemicals and harsh cleaners:

Kitchen floors: Whether you've got linoleum or ceramic tiles in the kitchen, vinegar—straight or mixed with water—is all you need to get floors clean. Use a sturdy mop (not a disposable one), natural sponge or washrags to scrub, then mop up any excess. Vinegar and a good stiff brush, either a grout brush or firm toothbrush, also clean grout nicely.



Kitchen sinks: Make your own sink scrub using one part vinegar, four parts baking soda and several drops of your fourity assential cil(a). Some the pasts on with a many all

favorite essential oil(s). Scrub the paste on with a sponge, let sit for a few minutes then rinse.

- ▶ Windows: Vinegar again, this time in a spray bottle, will do the trick. Many people recommend wiping vinegar-sprayed glass with crumpled newspaper, but a lint-free washrag works well too.
- ➤ Carpets: Before vacuuming, shake baking soda over the carpeting; it will help to absorb odors. For spot cleaning, try that natural wonder, vinegar. Spray it on, scrub out the spot with a washrag and don't worry about the vinegar smell; it dissipates quickly.
- ▶ **Upholstery:** Sprinkle stale cushions and chairs with baking soda, let it sit for a while, then vacuum.
- ► Fresh air: Open the windows and doors. This is the best way to get dirty air moving out and fresh air moving in.
- ➤ Air fresheners: Chemical fresheners can cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation. Aerosol air fresheners are even worse—the tiny air-borne particles can damage nerves and lodge in your lungs. Buy fresh flowers in lieu of traditional air fresheners. An open box of baking soda, cedar blocks, and dried flowers also adds natural fragrance to the room.
- ► **General odors:** Make your own scented sprays by mixing distilled water, isopropyl alcohol (keep this away from heat and flames, as well as from children and pets) and several drops of your favorite essential oil in a spray bottle, then spray wherever needed.
- ▶ **Tubs and toilets:** Spray with vinegar first, then sprinkle on baking soda for totally natural, fizzy cleaning power. Scrub with a sponge or toilet brush, then rinse clean or flush.
- ➤ Garbage cans: Sprinkle the bottoms with the natural mineral borax to prevent mold and fungus, and to keep away insects.
- **Bugs:** Spring is when ants and other critters start running amok. To keep them from crawling in, mix equal parts sugar and borax in a shaker bottle, then sprinkle along likely household entry points (keep away from areas accessible to children and pets).
- **Supplies:** Use natural fiber sponges and rags to do the cleaning. Avoid using paper towels and other one-time-use tools.
- Disposal: When you make the switch to natural cleaning products, be sure to safely dispose of any dangerous chemical products. Don't pour them down the drain, into the ground, or into the trash. Read the labels or check with your waste management provider for options.

# JMCA Social Committee: Looking for Leader(s)

The Social Committee is looking for some new blood. After three years at the helm, I would like to step down, although I would be happy to stay involved. The committee has been carried over the last year or two by two people-myself and Marissa Soule-and it would be great to see new blood and new ideas introduced. The responsibilities are not onerous: the Social Committee chair organizes the main JMCA social events of the year (the picnic, the holiday party, and the home and garden tour). Time commitment for all three of these combined (aside from being there on the day of the event) is probably not more than 10-20 hours in a year, and less if more people are involved. Depending upon interest, the committee may also organize the occasional happy hour, trip to a ball game, etc. In many cases, the committee's role is just to pass along information on informal events others may wish to organize. The chair is not a member of the JMCA board (but must be a JMCA member and is approved by the board), and does not need to attend JMCA board meetings.

If you are interested in serving as chair or just being a member of the Social Committee, please contact me: Jim Martin (social@jeffersonmanor.com; 703-505-3964).



### **Parking Reminder**

In keeping in touch with our new neighbors in the Huntington Gardens Apartments, I have received complaints

that members of the Jefferson Manor neighborhood have been using the parking lot in the apartments for their guests. Please remember that parking on Fairhaven and in their lot is at a premium. Part of being a good neighbor is respecting their property as we would hope ours to be respected.

-Chris Soule, JMCA President

### Changes Coming to JMCA Web Site

We are nearing the end of our yearlong efforts to improve our Web site. Over the next month or so, we will need individuals



to take the site for a test drive. If you are interested, please contact Dan Green at dan@unimatrixe.net.



## **Neighbor News**

Welcome to the neighborhood **Vicki Deisner.** Vicki moved to Edgehill drive in November with her dog Dottie and cat Cassanova. Vicki hails from Ohio and works for the National Wildlife Federation. She has already attended both the Halloween parade and Holiday party and looks forward to becoming an active member of the neighborhood.



Send Neighbor News submissions to Richard Ewell at treasurer@jeffersonmanor.org.

# Median and Crosswalk Coming to North Kings Highway

### A Message from Supervisor McKay

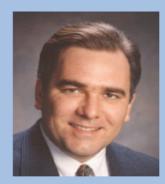
I am pleased to report success on my top priority for pedestrian funding one that will benefit the Jefferson Manor community. That's the construction of a median and crosswalk on North King's Highway from Fort Drive to Jefferson Drive. This improvement should help make the area around the Huntington Metro station more pedestrian friendly in line with its identification as a transit oriented development area.

Normally funding for this project would have been the responsibility of the state and handled through the Virginia Department of Transportation. However, given that the state has slashed road funds for Northern Virginia I was unwilling to hold your community hostage any longer to VDOT's ever shrinking construction funding. I arranged for this project to be funded through the County's C & I (commercial and industrial) real estate transportation revenues. The project is currently in the design phase and we expect to have a construction schedule shortly.

COLDWELL BANKER S
Decide Distance

# JEFFERSON MANOR'S REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT — WINTER OF 2010

Status Address	B	R B	A List\$	Sold\$	Settled
Sold* 5943 Monticello	3	2	\$365000	\$350000	2/26/10
Sold 2610 Farmington	2	1	\$345000	\$340000	1/29/10
Sold 2707 Fort Dr	3	2	\$290000	\$285000	1/29/10
Sold* 2716 Albemarle	2	1	\$317000	\$300000	1/27/10
Sold 5812 Edgehill Dr	2	2	\$275000	\$275000	1/21/10
Sold 6026 N Kings Hwy	2	2	\$235000	\$245000	12/18/09
Sold* 2618 Jefferson	2	1	\$245000	\$225000	12/07/09
Sold 2707 Fairhaven	2	1	\$357450	\$337000	11/30/09
<b>Sold</b> * 5867 Edgehill Dr	2	1	\$339000	\$331000	11/24/09



Tom Rickert is a resident & Jefferson Manor Specialist w/over 122+ transactions in Jefferson Manor alone!

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Information provided by area Metropolitan Regional Information Systems. It may contain sales not made by the Coldwell Banker agent or Coldwell Banker. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. **\*Tom's Sales**!

Thinking of Selling or Renting? In this market, the most important decision you make is who to work with! Now offering property management & tenant screening services.

# **Get Into Gear This Spring and Meet Your Neighbors!**

Spring is fast approaching (hopefully!) and it's time dust off the old shoes or bikes and hit the trail. Why not meet some new neighbors while you get back in the groove?

> I would like to gauge interest in a couple new groups that I would like to arrange. If any neighbors are interested in getting together for a run or a bike ride, please let me know. You don't have to be a stellar athlete, just want to get out in the sunshine and get a

little exercise. My goal is to arrange at least 2 runs and 2 bikes during the month, weather and vacations permitting. Hopefully we will have everything from marathoners to easy-joggers along for the jaunts. There is no membership and no rules, just an opportunity to meet up with a few neighbors and friends. These meet-ups will take place primarily on Saturdays and Sundays. When the days get longer we'll add a few days during the week to mix it up.

This is a volunteer program, all are welcome. In addition, if there are other activities that you would like to see added to this such as organizing a pick-up basketball, football, softball game, etc. let me know and if there is enough interest I'll see if I can organize.

If you are interested, please email Tim Norris at timrnorris@yahoo.com your name, preferable times and days (e.g., Sunday afternoons) and whether you are interested in a bike or run. I'll be putting together a calendar via email in the coming weeks.

Note: This is not a JMCA supported effort. The JMCA will not be providing any funding or organizational help in this endeavor and you participate at your own risk.

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## **The Kindness of Neighbors—Blizzard Edition!**

As back-to-back blizzards hit Jefferson Manor last month, my husband and I were "stuck" in sunny Florida visiting his parents. As our long weekend away stretched into the eighth day and our flight was canceled for the fourth time, we had repeated cause to be *very* grateful for our Jefferson Manor neighbors. When our cat sitter was unable to come by and feed our poor stranded kitty, Jim Martin braved the snow and filled up her bowl. And imagine our delight when we returned home, lugging a 13-monthold and our luggage, to discover that our neighbors had shoveled our walk—including around to our back door and our car.

A little further down Monticello, seniors Paul and Andrea Corsillo received a helping hand from their neighbors Anne and Ben Charboneau, Katie and Mike Jarvis, and Andy Taylor. When the winds settled after

the first February snowfall, Andy made sure they had a path from the street to their door and helped Andrea dig out the car on the street after the second blast. Ben, Katie, and Mike dug out their car in the driveway twice while Anne sent over delicious banana-nut muffins and picked up a few items from the store for them.

And Monticello wasn't the only street filled with helpful neighbors. Other neighborhood seniors found their walkways cleared and their driveways shoveled, and the listserv buzzed with stories of neighbors helping to direct traffic on Fort Drive during the worst of the weather and banding together to report the power outage (and get it fixed in record time!).

So a big *thank you* to all of you who took the extra time to help out a neighbor! —*Maeve Ulrick* 





*Above:* Neighbors enjoy a break from shovelling on Williamsburg Drive.

At right: Many residents improvised homemade "refrigerators" in the snow when the power went out.

*Below:* Footpaths through Jefferson Manor Park lead to neighborhood sledding spots.



Kate and Mike Jarvis's dog Skyline enjoys playing in the snow on Monticello Drive.



# HANDYMAN SERVICES

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# **Running and Voting for the JMCA Board**

Voting will occur at the March 16, 2010 membership meeting. To vote or run for office, you must be a member in good standing for the current year. If you have not paid your 2010 membership fee of \$20, you may do so at the beginning of the March meeting. Each JMCA member household is entitled to one vote, to be cast in person at a membership meeting. Any disputes regarding membership or voting status will be resolved by the (sitting) Treasurer.

A list of candidates for the JMCA Board is included below. If you wish to run for office or to nominate a consenting individual, contact Chris Soule at 571-213-5618 or president@jeffersonmanor.org. We will also be taking nominations from the floor.

There are a maximum of nine members of the JMCA Board, consisting of four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and

Treasurer) and five directors (General Board Members). Officers are elected annually. Directors serve 2-year terms (with 2-3 slots opening each year). All board members serve without compensation. All board members must reside in Jefferson Manor, with the possible exception of one of the directors. Board members meet a minimum of once every other month, in between general membership meetings, six times per year.

**President:** The President presides over all meetings of the membership. He/she exercises general active management of the business of the JMCA and directs the execution of all policies and resolutions of the Board. The President may assign duties subject to the approval of the Board. The

President may serve as a member of any committee. Candidate: Tim Norris

**Vice President:** The Vice President performs the duties and exercises the powers of the President during the absence or disability of the President **Candidate: OPEN** 



**Treasurer:** The Treasurer has custody of all JMCA funds and shall keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual report of the cash receipts and disbursements for the prior calendar year. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping a current list of the voting membership of the JMCA.

### **Candidate: Shawn Ulrick**

**Secretary:** The Secretary attends all Board and membership meetings and keeps

minutes of all meetings, including, on request, a record of the calling of a vote. Minutes may be taken by an alternate designated by the Secretary.

### **Candidate: OPEN**

**Directors:** Also known as General Board Members. Directors are elected every two years in rotating groups of two or three. Directors support the officers; and may chair a committee upon appointment by the President and recommendation and approval of the Board. **Candidate: Brian Allen** 

Candidate: Dan Green Candidate: OPEN

## **Alexandria Community Shred and Share Event**

The City of Alexandria, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Landmark Mall, McEnearny Associate Realtors/ Cindy Clemmer, and Proshred, is hosting a free community reuse and shredding event. On March 27, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., residents can bring the following materials to the Landmark Mall (use the Duke Street entrance and follow the signs).

Habitat for Humanity will be collecting acceptable reusable furniture, appliances, and building materials. Unacceptable items will be turned away.

The City of Alexandria, McEnearny Associate Realtors/Cindy Clemmer, and Proshred will be co-hosting a Free community shredding at the event.

- ▶ Limit 5 boxes per car
- Acceptable items include: Office paper, checks, checkbooks, and notebooks, small fasteners do not need to be removed.
- Unacceptable items include: Newspaper, magazines, cardboard, books, CD's/DVD's, videotapes, hard drives, three ring binders, metal or plastic objects, and wet paper.
- > Please reuse the document containers you bring!

## **Emergency Contact Numbers**

Emergency Police, Fire, Ambulance: 9-1-1, TTY 911.

Non-emergency police: 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2264.

Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222, TTY 711.

Snow removal, flooded roads, blocked roads or malfunctioning traffic signals: Virginia Department of Transportation: 703-383-VDOT (8368), TTY 711.

Storm Flooding: To report storm flooding during business hours (M-F, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), call the Maintenance & Stormwater Management Division at 703-934-2800, TTY 711. For after-hours storm flooding emergencies that are not life threatening, call the 24-hour Trouble Response Center at 703-323-1211, TTY 703-239-8498, and state that you are reporting a storm sewer emergency.

Street Light Outage: Contact either Dominion Virginia Power at 1-888-667-3000, TTY 711 or NOVEC at 1-888-335-0500, TTY 711.

Sewer Breaks or Back-ups: Call the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at 703-323-1211 or 703-250-2003, TTY 703-239-8489.

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450, TTY 711.

Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400, TTY 711.

## **Jefferson Mano** Citizens Associa

## Lessons Learned for Less Than \$100 This is a budget-constrained list of non-food and non-

medical items to keep onhand for emergencies:

**Personal Storm Preparedness:** 

Snow shovel: \$20

Flashlight/mini light: \$10

Batteries: \$5

Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAAWeather Radio, if possible, many will charge a cell phone): \$50

Cash for a taxi: \$15

#### **TOTAL: \$100**

Everything except the batteries can be a one-time purchase. More items can be added as additional budget becomes available. For suggestions see:

Fairfax County Emergency Management: http://www. fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/prepare/kit.htm

American Red Cross: http://www.redcrossstore.org

-Ron Kellis

Visit the JMCA Web Site at	
http://www.jeffersonmanor.org	
for a color version of this newslette	r

<b>The Settimes of Manor</b> Citizens Association	<b>2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b> Renewal New Member Senior (\$10)
Any residents of the Jefferson Manor subdivision over the age of 18 and non-resident owners of property in the Jefferson Manor subdivision are entitled to membership in the Jefferson Manor Citizens Association. Membership dues are \$20 per household (\$10 for seniors) per calendar year. Complete this application & mail with a check or money order to:	Name(s):
JMCA P.O. Box 4104 Alexandria, VA 22303	TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ Check/money order Cash    I am willing to help deliver newsletters (once every other month).    I am interested in the following:    JMCA Website  Social Committee    Green Committee  Transportation issues  Home Improvement Committee    Neighborhood Watch  Newsletter    Other notes:  Image: Check/money order Cash